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A MEMORIAL

TO THE

Regents of the University

OF THE STATE OF IOWA,

FROM

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Of the Board of Trustees of Griswold College.

DAVENPORT, IOWA.

DAVENPORT, IOWA.
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To the Honorable the Board of Regents of the University of the State of Iowa:

GENTLEMEN: At a late meeting of the Board of Trustees of Griswold College, held in the City of Davenport, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, to wit:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be authorized and instructed to memorialize the Board of Regents of the University of the State of Iowa, to take such action, after mutual conference and agreement with the said Executive Committee, —the said action to be finally approved by this Board, whereby on the graduation of students in Arts and Science in Griswold College, the degree of A. B. or B. S. shall be conferred on the terms established by the University Professors, and only after examinations, written or oral, conducted by, or in accordance with the instructions of, the said University Faculty, empowered to confer the said degrees; it being understood and stipulated that the said degrees, when thus conferred, shall be given by the University over and above their bestowal by Griswold College.

Resolved, That in this effort to secure affiliation with the University of the State, the Board of Trustees of Griswold College pledge themselves, on re-opening the College committed to their charge, to provide such a course of instruction, and to give evidence of such sympathy with the highest education, as to render this affiliation a proof of the interest of the said Trustees and the Church they represent, in the advance of education and culture throughout the State, to their highest possible development.

In compliance with these instructions and heartily endorsing and seconding their intent, the Executive Committee would respectfully ask of the Regents of the University that kind consideration of their proposition which the importance of the subject at issue certainly demands.

The existence within the State of eighteen so-called Universities or Colleges, largely denominational in their origin and constituency, with varying standards of scholarship and each and all alike possessing the degree-giving power, cannot but render all efforts for the establishment of a uniform and high standard of educational attainment as contemplated by the University practically inoperative. Too often the degree will be sought where it can most readily be obtained. The exaction of a high standard of attainment, as a prerequisite to graduation by the University, can and will at present affect only those who from love of study and free from the influence of denominational prejudice personally attend the University and avail themselves of its superior privileges. Could the University be multiplied and its advantages be offered at each of the many educational centres now existing within the State, it would certainly be productive of far greater good than is now possible. Is it not practicable to secure such a result? It is not essential

to the idea of a State University that its instructions should be given, and its *curriculum* maintained, in any particular place. The University of the State of New York, for example, has neither buildings nor Instructors, yet, by availing itself of the various Colleges, established under local or denominational influences in the State, it maintains a high and uniform standard of scholarship throughout the State; and, year by year, in the annual reports of its regents, contributes in a marked degree to the educational advance of the land.* The ancient Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, not content with gathering their students in centres which have been hallowed by the presence and toil of scholars for nearly a thousand years, are seeking to establish all over the United Kingdom educational centres under their control where the same instruction in whole or in part will be given and the University degrees, at least in great part, earned. The fact of the existence of these scattered and often rival educational institutions being admitted, the question for our American educators seems to be: Can there be attained by their united and uniform efforts the grand result which the State University is felt and known to have in view? Can steps be taken whereby a degree from each and every College in Iowa shall represent a certain and well defined amount of attainment in learning and letters, and the standard of the State University be thus maintained throughout the State?

Your Memorialists respectfully submit that they believe this result to be both possible and eminently desirable. With a view to bring about this result they respectfully propose in the reopening of the College under their charge, which will take place the present year, to surrender the exercise of their power of granting the degrees of B. A. and B. S., *i. e.:* the graduating degrees, save on terms to be determined by the Faculty of the State University and after Examinations, conducted either by representatives of the said Faculty of the State University in person, or in such strict accordance with their requirements as to meet fully and without any reservation the prerequisite standard of the University. And they ask of the Regents that upon the Students of Griswold College who shall, after examinations conducted as aforesaid, fulfil these requirements, as prescribed by the Faculty of the University, for graduation either in Arts or Science, there shall be given by the Authorities of the University the degree to which they have proved themselves entitled. To effect this result, as will be seen at a glance, a course of study and a standard of instruction must be maintained at Griswold College equivalent to that offered at the University. Practically therefore it will be the addition to the State University, and in closest affiliation with it, of a

* "The University of the State of New York though generally regarded as a Legal Fiction, is, in truth, a grand reality The numerous institutions of which it is composed are indeed not, as in England, crowded into a single city, but are scattered, for popular convenience over the entire State."—P. 532, Report of Regents for 1875

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well-officered and thoroughly efficient co-worker in the educational field.

There can be little hazard in granting so simple a request. If the graduates of Griswold College are not able to pass the Examinations prescribed by the State University they will fail to receive a graduating degree. If they are able to pass these examinations they are unquestionably entitled to that recognition of their attainments on the part of the State, they would secure if, in place of a course of study at Griswold College, they had taken a similar course at Iowa City. "Griswold" would sustain the relation to the University that "Baliol" or "Brasenose" or "Christ Church" Colleges at Oxford, and "St. John's" and "Trinity" at Cambridge, do to their respective Universities. It would prepare its men for the University examinations and would be at pains to do it well. Its teaching, and the application and success of its students would be ever on trial before an impartial tribunal. It would attest its hearty interest in the work of thorough education by courting the fullest scrutiny and by claiming nothing which it did not fairly earn.

Nor would this step be without results in inciting a generous emulation among other local and denominational colleges throughout the State to reach the same standard of education and thus secure similar terms from the State University. Our State system of education would soon comprise all the educational institutions that were capable of imparting an instruction worth the seeking.

The details of this plan may safely be left for further consideration if the general outlines of this scheme of affiliation with the State educational system are approved. The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Griswold College, in presenting this memorial, respectfully beg this general approval of their proposition, and the appointment of a committee on the part of the Regents to which, in connection with a committee of their own body, the perfecting of this scheme shall be entrusted.

With the most unfeigned respect for the Honorable Board to which they present this, their unanimous petition, your memorialists beg to subscribe themselves,

Respectfully,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
of the Board of Trustees
of Griswold College by

WILLIAM STEVENS PERRY,
Bishop of Iowa and President of the Board.

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Griswold College, on motion, it was unanimously

Resolved, That the Memorial to the Regents of the University of the State of Iowa, presented by the President of the Board, be and is hereby adopted, and that the President be appointed a Committee of the Executive Committee to present the same to the Regents of the University.

Attest: WILLIAM STEVENS PERRY,
President of the Board.

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